



# Lincoln High School

## Honors English 9 – Summer Reading Assignment 2017

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to Lincoln High School's Honors English program for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Our goal is to prepare students for the Advanced Placement English programs by exposing them to a variety of reading selections while developing the skills to recognize cultural and historical influences on literature.

Summer reading is a required part of this program. The assignment includes reading a minimum of two novels, posting discussion entries to Schoology, and taking an assessment during the first week of school. If you have any questions about the assignment, please contact Ms. Ward via Schoology, at [sward@wpusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:sward@wpusd.k12.ca.us) or [sward7@gmail.com](mailto:sward7@gmail.com).

1. All students will read Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck to complete the first summer reading assignment. Discussion Board assignments will be posted on Schoology. I strongly recommend that you purchase a personal copy of the short novel (new or used), or download a copy onto your electronic reading device. Of course, you may also check out a copy at any library but will not be able to annotate the text. (See instructions for annotating text on next page.)

2. All English students in the honors program will be required to read 1,500 pages to meet the outside reading requirement for Honors English 9 semester one and another 1,500 pages for Honors English 9 semester two. You may read the following novels during the summer to get a head start on the outside reading for semester one. **I strongly recommend that you read at least one of the selections listed below.** You may read as many of these novels as you would like, but in order to receive credit for the pages, you must participate in the Discussion Board assignments that will be posted on Schoology.

**Also note: You may not use any of the selections if you have already read the book for an outside reading or any other assignment in any prior English class.**

Novels to be read during the summer and applied towards outside reading pages for semester one 2017/2018:

Anthem by Ayn Rand (125 pages) *Lexile 880L*

Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya (272 pages) *Lexile 840L*

Lord of the Flies by William Golding (250 pages) *Lexile 770L*

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd (336 pages) *Lexile 840L*

The first reading selection, Of Mice and Men, and all discussion board entries should be completed by July 1, 2017. The remaining novels of choice and respective discussion entries must be completed by August 20, 2017.

## Instructions for marking the text

As you read the summer novel, highlight interesting, important or confusing passages; take notes in the margins about topics and questions you may have; this is called **annotating**. If the book is not yours or you do not plan to write in it, you can strategically annotate on post-it notes or type out your notes. Just highlighting is not enough. We will be looking for evidence that the book was read in its entirety and that you understood the book. You will be graded on your effort to mark the text. While you are not required to annotate every page, use the guidelines below to help you:

- • Important plot events
- • Words unfamiliar or unusual – Look up the meaning of the word or guess speculate on the meaning based on context clues. Doing this as you read will help you when you complete the lexicon portion of the assignment
- • Passages that describe or reveal characteristics of the characters
- • Any words, images, and details that seem to form a pattern throughout the text –
- • For example, if a large clock appears in the first chapter, and then you notice the author using the words, “timely” or “ticking” in the text, and then an incident occurs in which a character breaks a watch or is late for an appointment, you may have uncovered a pattern of imagery that will lead the close reader to discover a thematic idea. Highlight these related strands and observe the remaining text closely to see if other linked words, image or details are used.
- • Images or phrases you think might be symbolic.
- • Theme concepts – make predictions and speculate the meaning or point of each theme.
- • Figurative language – highlight what you believe to be the most significant examples.
- • Interesting thoughts – You may never think of this idea again unless you write it down.
- • Questions you have while you read – write it down and try to answer it later in your reading.
- • Use brackets, checks, stars, bullets, or asterisks to mark very important items or detail you want to return to later. In the front of the book record the symbol you used and write the page numbers that have that symbol.
- • Be careful to not mark too much. If you mark everything, nothing will stand out.